

**WASHINGTON** — Congressman Spencer Bachus this morning issued the following statement regarding the death of terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in Iraq:

“The elimination of the barbaric terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is good news for the world. This victory over terror calls to mind Ronald Reagan’s assertions regarding terrorism: ‘they can run, but they cannot hide’ - eventually their terror will be ended.

“We should use this opportunity yet again to thank and commend our U.S. coalition forces and their Iraqi allies for their courage, professionalism and service. As President Bush said, this will not end the activities of terrorists in Iraq and the world, but it is concrete evidence of the continued progress of our efforts.

“The completion of the Iraqi cabinet with the appointment of three critical ministers is also confirmation of continued movement toward a just and democratic society in Iraq. The combination of these two events - the death of the prime opponent of reconciliation and the parliamentary approval of a democratically elected government offer hope for the future of the Iraqi people.”

###